

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are now pending in the application. The Examiner requires a restriction requirement per the 35 U.S.C. 121 and has grouped the claims into:

- I. Claims 1-7 drawn to a ceramic matrix, classified in class 501, subclass 127.
- II. Claims 8-22, drawn to a method of preparing a matrix and a method of making a composite, classified in class 264, subclass 621.

The Examiner states that the inventions are distinct from each other for various reasons. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are reasonably similar in scope and directed to a similar material. The Applicant further submits that it would not be an undue burden for the Examiner to search both of the groupings to provide a single examination of all claims presently pending and requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn. If the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, the Applicant elects, with traverse, to have group I: claims 1-7, initially be re-examined. By this election, the Applicant does not disclaim the subject matter in claims 8-22 and reserves the right to refile claims 8-22 in a divisional or similar application.

CONCLUSION

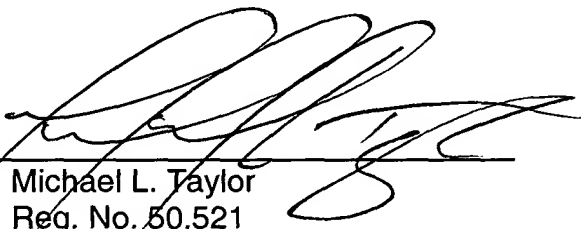
With this selection, the Applicant submits that each of the claims presently pending are in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

7/25/03

By:


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